

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.

Form no.

457



City Lexington

Address 191 Waltham Street

Name Herbert A. Tuttle House

Present use Private Home

Present owner Tina DeSimone since 1950

Description:

Year 1890

Source Tuttle List, Minute-Man Aug 3, 1894

Style Queen Anne/Shingle Style

Architect David A. Tuttle

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard & patterned shingles, lt. green & white

Outbuildings (describe) Garage

Other features See back

Altered \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less 9375 ft<sup>2</sup> Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 75'

Approximate distance of building from street

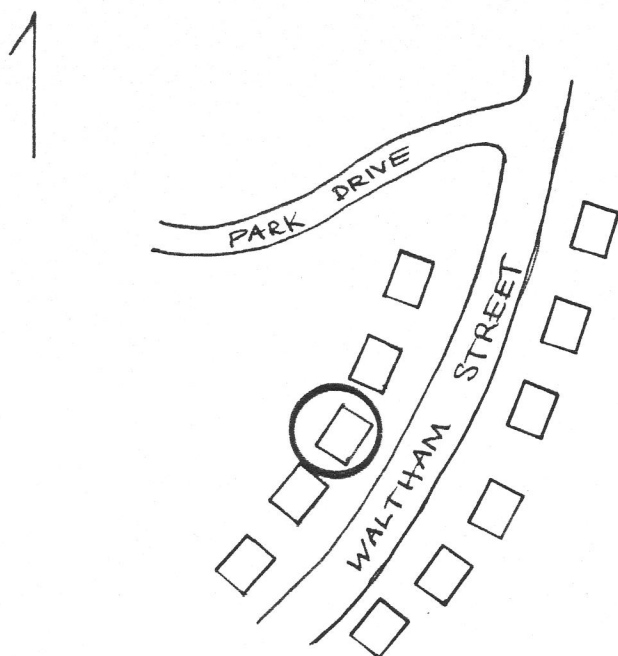
25'

6. Recorded by Grady, Schwemmer; Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date April 14, 1976; April, 1984

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Herbert A. Tuttle

Original use \_\_\_\_\_

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

|                       |          |                            |       |                         |       |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| Aboriginal            | _____    | Conservation               | _____ | Recreation              | _____ |
| Agricultural          | _____    | Education                  | _____ | Religion                | _____ |
| Architectural         | <u>x</u> | Exploration/<br>settlement | _____ | Science/<br>invention   | _____ |
| The Arts              | _____    | Industry                   | _____ | Social/<br>humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce              | _____    | Military                   | _____ | Transportation          | _____ |
| Communication         | _____    | Political                  | _____ |                         |       |
| Community development | _____    |                            |       |                         |       |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Foundation stone  
5 sided bay & 3 sided oriel first storey  
Frong porch wrapping around to left w. turned  
balusters  
Shortened palladian window 3rd storey  
Carved diamond windows second floor over entry  
4 sided bay or turret containing stairs with stained glass windows  
Curved detail string course at 1st storey  
Varnished pannelling in side.

This is the last house to be built by David Ainsworth Tuttle, one of Lexington's most prolific builders. Tuttle, who was the son of David Tuttle, also a carpenter, built his first house in 1840. Many of the houses he built survive. The Lexington Historical Society has a list of his works he prepared in 1904. The house was built for his son, Herbert Ainsworth Tuttle, who continued in the family field by becoming a lumber dealer in Boston.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, p. 712. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

David A. Tuttle's list of houses he built, 1904. Lexington HHistorical Society archives.

1894 Directory

1899 Directory

1906 Directory

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

|                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Community:<br>Lexington           | Form No:<br>457 |
| Property Name: 191 Waltham Street |                 |

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This house is typical of the houses being built by Lexington contractors, David A. Tuttle and Abram C. Washburn, in the 1880s and 1890s. This one is by Tuttle. Whether he is responsible for the design we do not know, but it shares features popular with both of these contractor/builders: patterned (staggered butt) shingles on the second level, broad porches, bay windows, and asymmetrical massing.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
LEXINGTON

Property Address  
191 WALTHAM ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

457

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

On August 3, 1894 the *Lexington Minute-man* reported that:

An attractive and roomy house is being built by D.A. Tuttle, the veteran carpenter and builder, for the residence of his son, Mr. Herbert Tuttle, on Waltham street in the vicinity of the Mulliken place. The location chosen is extremely pleasant and suggests the enquiry why building lots on this street have not found a more ready sale. The street has a fine road bed, an easy upward grade and there are certain points which are quite high and command a pleasant outlook. Although it has the effect of being retired and "out of town," locations on the street are within easy walking distance of the centre.

Herbert Ainsworth Tuttle (1853-1909) was the second son of David A. and Susan Tuttle and like his father and grandfather, was born in Lexington. He died suddenly in 1909 at the age of 55 and worked in Boston as a wholesale lumber merchant. It appears his widow Annie moved shortly thereafter. From about 1918 and into the 1930s the house was owned and occupied by John Gilcreast, a Boston banker, and his wife Florence.

Note: In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century this house was known as 55 Waltham Street.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Cambridge: The Riverside Press Co., 1913, vol. 2, p. 712.  
Lexington Directories, various dates.  
*Lexington Minute-Man*, August 3, 1894; Aug. 21, 1909.

Supplement prepared by:  
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March 2009